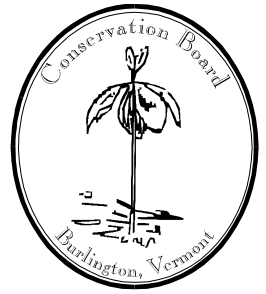


Burlington Conservation Board

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*Matt Moore, Chair
Will Flender, Vice Chair
Scott Mapes
Don Meals
Jeff Severson
Miles Waite
Damon Lane
Doug Morin*



Conservation Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 3, 2012 – 5:30 pm
Planning & Zoning Conference Room – City Hall Lower Level
149 Church Street

Attendance

- **Board Members:** Matt Moore (MM), Miles Waite (MW), Doug Morin (DFM), Damon Lane (DL), Jeff Severson (JS), Will Flender (WF)
- **Absent:** Don Meals (DM), Scott Mapes (SM)
- **Public:** Andres Torizzo (Blanchard Beach item), Walter Poleman, Tom Hudspeth (North 40 item)
- **Staff:** Scott Gustin (Planning & Zoning), Dan Cahill (Parks & Recreation)

MM, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes

Minutes of November 5, 2012

A MOTION was made by MW and SECONDED by JS:

Accept the minutes of November 5 as written.

Vote: 5-0-1

Board Comment

MW noted that UVM students in Don Ross's class approached him about working on a project. He suggested working on soil sampling for the data gap analysis in the Urban Reserve. They focused on heavy metals. He went to the class last week. Nothing too interesting was discovered. No very high levels of contaminants were found. Basic background levels were found. The students did a good job with their quality insurance.

DFM, met with Jens Hilke with VT ANR recently. Mr. Hilke expressed interest in meeting with BCB to talk about how Burlington fits into the regional context.

WF, is the Grove Street project coming to BCB for sketch plan? SG noted that they might, but they are first going to the DRB for sketch plan review. MM said that post-development impervious surface will be less than existing according to the applicants at their Ward 1 NPA meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Open Space Subcommittee

No meeting this month.

MM suggested that Dan Cahill distribute the Open Space agendas to the whole BCB.

Update & Discussion

1. Blanchard Beach Stormwater Improvements

The programs and services of the Dept. of Planning and Zoning are accessible to people with disabilities.
For accessibility information call 865-7188 (865-7142 TTY).

Discussion of stormwater improvements with Andres Torizzo

Andres Torizzo appeared on behalf of this item.

Andres Torizzo presented a short slide show of the project to the Board. His firm was contracted by the city to do this project. It had a number of goals, including restoration of the wetland area at the base of Flynn Avenue. There was also an eroded stream corridor through the wetland that needed to be stabilized. The scope of the project was affected by the size of the watershed and the wetland permit limitations on disturbance. He overviewed the multiple components of the watershed draining into the affected wetland. He demonstrated the flow of water through the new water quality improvements for the design storm events. Larger storms send water through a bypass pipe. JS commented on the work within the wetland. It was not a true restoration to its pre-disturbance condition, but did improve its water quality functions. Mr. Torizzo overviewed treatment system performance numbers for water quality improvements. He concluded with a list of future watershed retrofits. These included Oakledge Park lower parking lot, Ambrose Place, Crest Drive, Southwind, and the Blanchard Beach outfall.

MW asked if we know where the large buried pipe through the center of the watershed comes out. Mr. Torizzo replied that we do. MW asked about the quality of the water discharging from the end. Mr. Torizzo replied that it is turbid.

MW asked if any water quality testing has been done. Mr. Torizzo replied that they have not yet. He'd not be surprised if there is a high E. Coli count coming out of the buried pipe.

MM, is this a single isolated project or part of a larger city-wide plan? Mr. Torizzo replied that this is an individual project funded from a grant. There may be opportunities for similar future projects like those noted for future watershed retrofits.

2. North 40 Ecological Inventory

Discussion of potential student project with Professor Walter Poleman

Professors Walter Poleman and Tom Hudspeth appeared on behalf of this item.

Prof. Poleman said that this effort is related to the larger Burlington Geographic project. We've got a spring class coming up next semester with about 12 graduate students. Most will have a background in ecology. The course will address mapping, inventorying, and managing of natural areas. The North 40 would fit well into the parameters of this course. This location is a rich place in need of attention. Can the BCB represent the city for this class? He'd like to see a point person established to help lead the effort. How can we make a meaningful contribution to the BCB?

MM said the timing is great. We're just beginning to have a working group with BCB and Community and Economic Development Office looking at ecological planning for the North 40. There are some specific items that could be addressed including an open space inventory, assessment, and analysis of baseline conditions. Prof. Poleman mentioned the presentation of the Burlington waterfront history by Rick Moulton.

MW said that he's heard of a history of Burlington book. Prof. Hudspeth said they're good books with lots of excellent photos.

WF noted that the Urban Reserve has an extensive legal history. Students should have an awareness of that.

JS asked if it would be possible for some students to continue working beyond the end of the semester. Prof. Poleman said that it could be possible as part of the larger masters degree program. Prof. Hudspeth said that usually students will expect some sort of funding for extended work such as this. MM, how much funding? Prof. Poleman responded \$5K.

JS said that over the years, a variety of maps have been made of the Urban Reserve. Associated documents have referred to 50% conservation area. Community and Economic Development Office has tried to delineate these areas. WF said that there is some basis in the conservation easement for these attempts at delineation.

MM, what is your deadline? Prof. Poleman said he'd like to know from the BCB within two weeks. This would be a premium project for a student interested in urban ecology.

WF noted that there may be a possibility to pay \$5K out of the BCLF for this work.

JS said that we're looking ahead as to how to plan for the Urban Reserve. We want to know as much as we can as to what's there. The BCB probably doesn't have to debate this for a couple of weeks. MM concurred and suggested wrapping Community and Economic Development Office into the discussion.

DM and JS volunteered to be the point persons for the class. MW offered to help out with the environmental background. Prof. Poleman noted that the class is January 14. We should meet beforehand to have the presentation ready for the class. MM, we'll meet at 4:30 on January 7 to put together presentation ideas.

Prof. Poleman noted the opportunity to tie into the terrestrial versus aquatic habitats along the Urban Reserve. Is there opportunity for shoreline wetlands? MW noted that Nick Warner has looked into naturalization of the Urban Reserve's shoreline.

3. Conversion of McKenzie property

Consider converting the LWCF regulations from McKenzie Park to the Arms Grant Property

Dan Cahill appeared on behalf of this item.

Dan Cahill said that this proposal would open up about 30 acres to agricultural use on the McKenzie parcel and use BCLF monies for the appraisal needed for this conversion. Execution of this project would also provide a nominal revenue stream for leasing out the newly available agricultural area.

JS, would land that's already conserved be eligible for BCLF funds? WF, the agricultural restrictions on McKenzie would be transferred to Arms Grant. He doesn't see why BCLF funds could not be used. The areas will remain protected and undeveloped.

JS, as part of the Moran redevelopment project, the city was looking to protect lands to offset wetland impacts. It was found that McKenzie was not an option. WF said that only the agricultural restrictions will be affected.

MM, what measures are in place to protect the riparian corridor from agricultural encroachment? Mr. Cahill said that it would be a matter of active monitoring. MM said that restrictions on recreational use of trails on McKenzie should remain, particularly as related to motorized vehicles.

MW asked about the Arms Grant. Mr. Cahill showed it on the city map, located north of Lone Rock Point and next to the Elks Club. The per acre value of the Arms Grant lands appears to be comparable to that of the McKenzie acreage. Arms Grant does not currently have LWFC restrictions.

WF said that we should approve the transfer on the condition that the McKenzie management plan be updated. We can address a host of potential concerns through that update.

JS how would we control what is grown on the land and for what? WF, that could be addressed through the management plan.

A MOTION was made by MM and SECONDED by WF,

Approve the conversion with the condition that the McKenzie management plan be updated. Specific land uses of the land may be of concern. Current pedestrian uses should be continued. We support the proposal to use BCLF monies to pay for the required appraisal.

Discussion:

JS said that we should avoid things like GMO crops and aerial crop dusting.

DFM stated that we need to be involved in the update of the management plan.

Vote: 6-0-0

Adjournment

No concerns were raised about the 2013 board meeting agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.